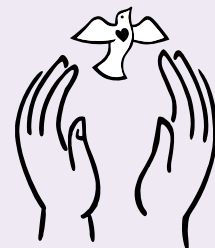


## Adults and Children Served By Member Programs 2009

	Victims of Sexual Violence	Victims of Domestic Violence	Victims/Survivors Housed in Shelters/Safehomes	Person-nights in Shelters/Safehomes
<b>AWARE</b> <i>Caledonia, Washington, &amp; Lamoille Counties (of Hardwick area)</i>	24	177	0	0
<b>Battered Women's Services &amp; Shelter*</b> <i>Washington County</i>	0	286	50	1,021
<b>Clarina Howard Nichols Center*</b> <i>Lamoille County</i>	79	619	43	2,874
<b>New Beginnings</b> <i>Windsor County (southern) &amp; town of Rockingham</i>	43	355	1	1
<b>PAVE*</b> <i>Bennington County</i>	48	414	44	1,112
<b>Rutland County Women's Network &amp; Shelter*</b> <i>Rutland County</i>	40	412	73	2,882
<b>Safeline</b> <i>Orange and northeastern Windsor Counties</i>	12	59	0	0
<b>Sexual Assault Crisis Team (SACT)*</b> <i>Washington County</i>	93	0	16	147
<b>The Advocacy Program at Umbrella*</b> <i>Caledonia, Orleans &amp; Essex Counties</i>	49	499	19	133
<b>Voices Against Violence*</b> <i>Franklin and Grand Isle Counties</i>	24	388	64	2,820
<b>WISE*</b> <i>Northeast Windsor County</i>	35	295	22	600
<b>Women Helping Battered Women*</b> <i>Chittenden County</i>	22	2,255	254	7,155
<b>Women's Crisis Center*</b> <i>Windham County (including the village of Bellows Falls)</i>	28	436	64	1,399
<b>Women's Rape Crisis Center</b> <i>Chittenden County</i>	455	0	0	0
<b>WomenSafe</b> <i>Addison County and the town of Rochester</i>	60	422	0	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>6,567</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>20,144</b>

\*Program with Shelter

- Network Programs received and responded to 10,676 hotline calls.
- 345 women, 182 children, and 16 men were housed in Network Shelters or Safehomes, and 142 persons were turned away due to lack of room.
- 134 Vermonters over the age of sixty received services from Network Programs, as well as 758 Vermonters with disabilities.
- There were 191 child victims of sexual violence served by Network Programs. Also, support services (other than Shelter) were provided to 6,684 women, 310 men, and 1,061 children.
- Network Programs' prevention/education work throughout the state reached 8,456 kindergarten through high school youth, and 4,651 college students. Additionally, 2,648 professional adults (teachers, health and law professionals, State agency staff, etc.) received training and education.



The Advocacy Program at Umbrella



CLARINA HOWARD NICHOLS CENTER



New Beginnings

SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS TEAM



Safeline

Voices Against Violence  
Laurie's House



Women's Rape Crisis Center

WomenSafe



AWARE

AWARE



Battered Women's Services & Shelter



Women Helping Battered Women



WISE



PAVE



Rutland County Women's Network & Shelter



WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTER

## Greetings from the Director

Being a part of a social change movement involves planning for the future. The Vermont Network is continuously seeking ways to anticipate opportunities and challenges, positioning our resources to be able to further our mission. In this annual report we take a moment to glance back and document both the progress and the challenges of our work toward ending violence: a snapshot of 2009. This report is also a testament to the Network's ongoing efforts to inform and support our Member Programs and victims and survivors, to create paradigm shifts that will prevent domestic and sexual violence, and to maximize our resources by strategically doing more with less.

Doing more with less might be the theme for 2009, especially for our partners working in state government. Many of the cost-cutting measures taken by state government in 2009 had a direct impact on services that are vital to victims and survivors. Member Programs were also faced with many challenges stemming from decreased funding from state sources, community donations and foundation grants. Fortunately, in 2009, services to victims seamlessly continued despite financial challenges.

Innovation might also be the theme this past year. At the Vermont Network we engaged in a transformative process that has resulted in a restructured organization better positioned to achieve our goals. The initiatives outlined in this report speak to the collaborative work of this organization, and to our accountability to our Member Programs and the people they serve.

— Karen Tronsgard-Scott

## 2009 Network Office Staff

**Karen Tronsgard-Scott**  
Director

**Alex Bottinelli**  
Clearinghouse & Resources Specialist

**Liese Brown**  
Legal Project Specialist

**Sarah Kenney**  
Public Policy Coordinator

**Jennifer Matthews**  
Financial Coordinator

**Bethany Pombar**  
Prevention Specialist

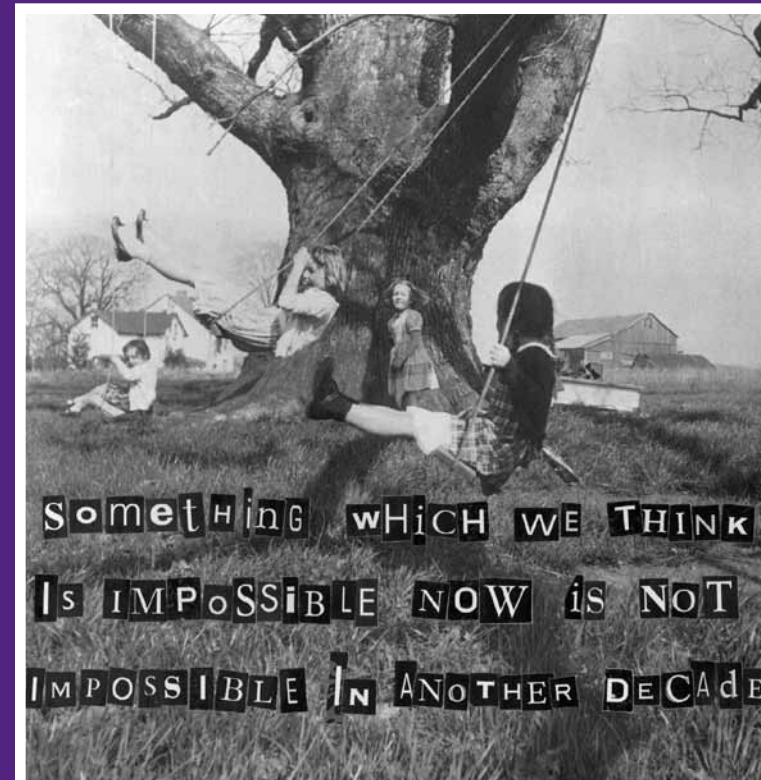
**Rebecca Shea**  
Creating Access Team Coordinator

**Chani Waterhouse**  
Member Program Support Coordinator

**Auburn Watersong**  
Economic Justice Specialist

**Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence**  
P.O. Box 405  
Montpelier, VT 05601

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## 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

**Vermont Network**  
Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

P.O. Box 405  
Montpelier, VT 05601  
802-223-1302  
TTY: 223-1115  
E-mail: [vtnetwork@vtnetwork.org](mailto:vtnetwork@vtnetwork.org)  
Website: [www.vtnetwork.org](http://www.vtnetwork.org)

STATEWIDE HOTLINES  
1-800-489-7273  
(for Sexual Assault)  
1-800-228-7395  
(for Domestic Violence)

## Mission

The Vermont Network is a feminist organization committed to eradicating domestic and sexual violence through advocacy, empowerment and social change.

## Who We Are

The Vermont Network is a coalition of 15 Programs located throughout the state, and a statewide Network Office located in Montpelier.

## Greetings from the Board

In 2009 the Board worked to clearly articulate its vision for a Vermont free from sexual and domestic violence. We reached out to stakeholders to learn which activities and goals we should prioritize. The coalition is inspired by the strength and resilience of the survivors we stand with in pursuit of safety, justice and self-determination. Their inspiration has fueled critical policy improvements and recognition of the paramount importance of prevention work. The Board thanks you for supporting this vital work.

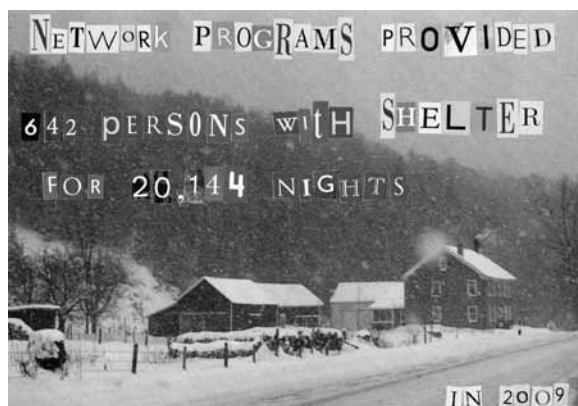


## Vermont Network 2009 Financial Statement\*

<b>INCOME:</b>	
Federal grants .....	\$1,669,133
State allocations .....	\$372,823
Other .....	\$148,116
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b> .....	<b>\$2,190,072</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
Pass-through to NW Programs .....	\$1,214,730
Outreach/Training/Education .....	\$75,611
Consultants & Sub-Grants .....	\$329,775
Salaries & Benefits .....	\$405,595
Operations .....	\$145,569
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> .....	<b>\$2,171,280</b>
<b>Balance</b> .....	<b>\$18,792</b>

\*Note: This financial statement is not yet audited.

# 2009 Vermont Network Highlights



## Shelter

Survivors often experience pleasant surprise when they first enter a shelter. Network Program shelters are homelike. Staff is often able to provide families with clothes and personal items to replace things they had to leave behind. Kids enjoy playing in the playrooms and spending time with staff. Friendships often develop in shelter, which may provide emotional support during what can be among the most trying periods of a survivor's life.

Network Program shelters have worked hard in recent years to enhance accessibility and responsiveness to survivors with diverse needs. Vermont is also fortunate to have one of the only shelters in the country which is geared toward female and male survivors of sexual violence and their families, and which also specializes in sheltering transgender people and other survivors of same-sex violence and harassment.

The newest shelter in the Network was opened by Umbrella in the summer of 2009, providing a long-needed resource for survivors of domestic violence in the northeast kingdom. Though Vermont has more shelter beds than ever before, Network Program shelters still had to turn away more than 140 people in 2009. Over 30 years after the first domestic violence shelter opened in Vermont, the ten shelters operated by Network Programs remain a vital resource for survivors of both domestic and sexual violence.

## Legislative Change

In response to the 2008 murder of 12-year-old Brooke Bennett, the legislature took decisive action to reform Vermont's laws pertaining to sexual violence offenders. The Network was actively engaged in those conversations and strongly supported several measures including expansion of the state's definition of "comprehensive health education", which was amended to mandate schools to provide information to students regarding sexual violence and healthy relationships. Act 1 (S.13) also made significant changes to the criminal code with the addition of two new crimes: aggravated sexual assault of a child and sexual exploitation of a minor. Immediately following

passage of Act 1, legislators began work on another comprehensive bill to update the state's sex offender registry, Act 58. The bill also criminalizes sex trafficking and creates a new juvenile violation called "minor electronically disseminating indecent material to another person". More information about these bills and many other new laws is available on the public policy section of our website: [www.vtnetwork.org](http://www.vtnetwork.org).

## Technical Assistance Resource Guide (TARG)

The 2009 legislative session saw the passage of S13/Act 1, which included a directive to incorporate sexual violence prevention education into schools' health education curriculum. To help support this mandate, the Legislature directed the Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force, of which the Network is an active member, to create the Sexual Violence Prevention Technical Assistance Resource Guide (TARG).

Its purpose is to provide tools and guidelines to schools as they incorporate sexual violence prevention education into their curricula. Following best practice prevention innovations, the guide provides opportunities for school personnel and the broader population (parents, coaches and other caregivers) to learn about sexual violence prevention so that youth get clear and consistent information throughout their community. The TARG will be released and sent to schools in July 2010.

## Enhancing Accessibility and Responsiveness Through Collaboration

In 2009, after several years of collaboration-building, assessment, and planning, the Creating Access Project implemented plans to improve systems' responses to people with disabilities and Deaf people who experience violence and abuse. Partner organizations (the Network, the Vermont Center for Independent Living [VCIL] and Green



Mountain Self Advocates [GMSA]) have worked closely together to weave accessibility and violence awareness through our own organizational policies and practices. The Network has built organizational capacity to create more accessible publications and events, and to provide technical assistance to Member Programs to support their accessibility. GMSA and VCIL have enhanced how

their organizations respond to people experiencing violence and abuse. The group has also provided ongoing support and technical assistance to local pilot collaborations doing similar work in Barre and Burlington.

## Holding Battersers Accountable

By improving efforts to engage and hold accountable men who batter, the Network hopes to improve the safety of survivors of domestic violence. During 2009, our batterer accountability efforts have included the review and certification of seven batterer intervention programs, a complete revision of Statewide Standards for batterer intervention programs, and training for probation officers, DCF caseworkers, prosecutors and others.

## Vermont Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE)

Two years ago the Legislature passed H.619 which established Vermont's SANE Program and gave the Vermont Network oversight of the program. In early 2009, the SANE Advisory Board was established to create a shared understanding of current SANE programs in Vermont and to set future goals. The Board is comprised of medical professionals, law enforcement officials, state agency representatives, victims' advocates, and others, all of whom have a special interest in meeting the needs of sexual violence survivors.

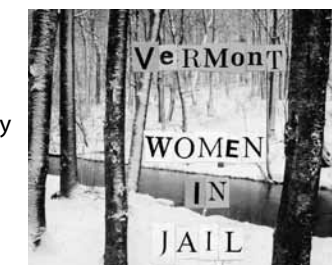
Administrative rules that will govern the educational requirements for SANE nurses were drafted, and the SANE Advisory Board established a schedule for meeting to monitor the SANE Program, implementation of rules and compliance with SANE standards for education, and certification.

This past March, Central Vermont Medical Center hosted a 40 hour/five day didactic SANE training based

on the International Association of Forensic Nurses. It was sponsored by the Vermont Network and resulted in 19 new SANEs who are currently practicing across the state.

## Supporting Survivors Behind Bars

Since 2003, the Discussing Intimate Partner Violence and Accessing Support (DIVAS) program has allowed incarcerated survivors to connect directly with advocates from Network Programs, primarily through



educational support groups in the women's incarcerative facilities. Currently Vermont women are incarcerated in St. Albans and Brattleboro, where Voices Against Violence and Women's Crisis Center facilitate groups. In 2009, the Network worked with the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Verizon Foundation to restructure and expand advocacy within the DIVAS program, based on recommendations from incarcerated women, advocates and DOC partners. A new Verizon Foundation grant allows an advocate from Voices Against Violence to work one-on-one with women at the Northwest State Correctional Facility, supporting them in developing individualized plans for safety and autonomy and assisting them in establishing supportive connections with local resources in the communities to which they will be released.

## Economic Empowerment

The Vermont Network has continued to develop crucial partnerships to support victims/survivors in these difficult economic times. Through the support of the Department of Children and Families Office of Economic Opportunities, the Network issued over \$10,000 in housing assistance grants to victim/survivors in 2009.

With funding from the Allstate Foundation and the National Network to End Domestic Violence, the Network has deepened its focus on economic advocacy efforts, with new resources to victim/survivors throughout Vermont, a statewide economic advocacy training, technical assistance, a victim/survivor-focused financial literacy curriculum, and a matched savings pilot program. The Network plans to continue the development of resources and partnerships to support the economic empowerment of victims/survivors.